

THE WASHINGTON HERALD

PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING BY
THE WASHINGTON HERALD COMPANY
425-427-429 Eleventh Street, Telephone MAIN 3300.

CLINTON T. BRANNARD, President and Editor.

FOREIGN REPRESENTATIVES:
THE S. C. BECKWITH SPECIAL AGENCY
New York Office, Tribune Bldg.
Chicago Office, Tribune Bldg.
St. Louis Office, Third National Bank Bldg.
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Daily and Sunday, \$3.50 per year
Daily, without Sunday, 25 cents per month
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Daily and Sunday, 30 cents per month
Daily and Sunday, \$3.50 per year
Daily, without Sunday, 25 cents per month
Daily, without Sunday, \$2.50 per year
Entered at the postoffice at Washington, D. C., as second-class mail matter.

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9, 1916.

A Line o' Cheer Each Day o' the Year.
By JOHN KENDRICK BANGS.

First printing of an original poem, written daily for The Washington Herald.

AS TO WILLS.
The WILL that leaves to weeping heirs
The wherewithal to live at ease,
Devoid of drear financial cares—
Yes, that's a sort of WILL to please.

But there's a WILL I much prefer—
The WILL that spurs the living soul
On to the heights of Character—
The WILL to win some lofty goal.

Grant me this kind of WILL, and woe
May play what pranks she may with me.
I'll be the Heir of Self and so
The richer make posterity.

(Copyright, 1916.)
Does the silence of Col. Roosevelt indicate that he really is out of politics or just suffering from the heat?

Why should Mr. Hughes keep up his vote-seeking now that one of those horoscope sharps has declared the astrological dope is in favor of Wilson?

No, the earth is not to be divided yet.—Maximilian Harden in the Zukunft. Probably the only man in Germany who has arrived at that conclusion.

Two thousand eligible young men have deserted the streets of Washington for the border or Camp Ordway but still every girl seems to have a sweetheart.
There are three kinds of egotists at large—the fellow who is always bragging about himself, the one who is continually apologizing for himself and those who remain neutral.

It is beginning to look as though disappointment will be the lot of those who have been expecting a charge that German agents were at the bottom of the New York explosions. But apparently the investigators have not yet reached the bottom.

According to recent official reports, deposits in German savings banks are increasing markedly. Is war, then, a promoter of national thrift or is the Teutonic financial expert a wonder worker to be classed with some other famous German institutions?

Frank Hitchcock, who staged the Hughes nomination at Chicago, has been sidetracked as Western leader of the Republican campaign, in favor of A. T. Hart. Is this an indication that he is more desirable as a stage manager than a campaign manager?

Senator Lodge complained recently that the Southern States have not done their part on the border.—Boston Journal. Done their part at what? Making such an unsavory mess of mobilization or damaging the national reputation for military readiness?

As it still further to extend its iron-claw policy in Ireland the British government has returned Baron Wimborne as lord lieutenant. Despite the baron's ability as a polo player, the Irish do not like him, and that, probably, is the reason why they are getting him.

The Socialist speaker who so severely criticized the District soldiers evidently sees quite a difference between the uniformed men who are patrolling our Southern border and those who are patrolling our streets. He offered no criticism whatever when a policeman led the jeering soldiers out of the crowd.

At a recent monster demonstration of workmen in Trafalgar Square, London, there was a universal demand for the hanging of Kaiser Wilhelm, Admiral von Tirpitz and the governor-general of Belgium in reprisal for the killing of Capt. Fryatt. Now will some obliging person see to it that this verdict goes into effect without unnecessary delay?

During these hot days horse owners should issue special and explicit instructions to drivers not to overload or overdrive their animals, and the police should see to it that every case of abuse of horses which comes under their attention is promptly dealt with. The excessive heat is felt keenly by the animals, and it is only through intervention of persons who observe mistreatment of horses that the creatures can be saved from hardships. During hot weather horses should be frequently watered and allowed to rest at short intervals, and when possible where it is shady. The rinsing out of horses' mouths with a wet sponge is recommended by humane officials, and many persons provide their horses with bonnets to protect their heads from the sun. On the other hand, some horse owners permit as heavy loads to be imposed upon the animals as when the weather is cooler. These owners are violating the laws of the District.

Does It Pay?

If long-continued vociferation, which not infrequently will amount to ululation, can bring it about—and the doctors say it is quite possible—this country is likely to be in a state of coma by next election day. It is agreed in all quarters that the political campaign is to be a verbal conflict to be compared only with that of 1896, the year of Mr. Bryan's possibly never-again-to-be-equalled oratorical stunt. It seems to have begun already in Congress, where a good deal of time is being consumed nowadays in discussing questions which belong properly to the final spellbinding effort of late October.

Despite the reluctance of the opposition to detect anything worth while in the speech of acceptance of the Republican candidate, the Democratic speakers will find an abundance of material to occupy their attention, and there is little doubt that President Wilson's letter, when it arrives, will inspire the thaumaturgists of the G. O. P. with all the verbal resources which are necessary. As it is and will continue to be until she establishes some sort of protection against such attacks, the first blow of the campaign will be felt in Maine. The list of speakers already assigned to that defenseless commonwealth presages an overflow of oratory that is calculated to make all else seem tame by way of comparison.

Does it really pay? According to a recent writer in the Atlantic Monthly, it doesn't, for the reason that "we, a self-governing people, permit our affairs to be administered, very largely, by second-rate men," despite the fuss and feathers we raise to elect them. Nobody believes that the men best qualified in every respect for office are the ones who reach it. The time is not yet come when Americans who possess ideal qualifications for high office are willing to accept it under the present conditions. For one thing, men of worth and fitness hesitate to enter the competition for high office because they know that under the present system their authority would be so limited that they would be unable to do any sort of justice to their own convictions. The man in high office finds himself constantly hampered as soon as he enters upon his trust, on the one hand by partisan obligation and on the other by lack of authority to act independently.

Another potent deterrent from a public career is to be found in the profound distaste felt by some men for the unbridled personal treatment which candidates receive at the hands of opposition spellbinders. This, however, must be accounted a weakness, and it certainly detracts from a man's fitness. In his Yale lectures, Mr. Hughes disposes of the matter as follows:

"In considering this question, the obligation of fairness in the criticism of public officials becomes manifest. Criticism is the safeguard of the public. No intelligent officer would dispense with it if he could. It is the life-current of democracy. But every one who wields the critical pen or indulges in critical utterances should keenly feel his responsibility. We have a government of laws, and not of men, but a government, after all, is nothing but men. To create a disinclination for public life, to make men feel that its conditions with regard to self-respect and decent reputation are intolerable, to drive men of sensibility away from its opportunities in sheer disgust, and to leave public employment the more accessible to adventurers, to soldiers of fortune, and to political hangers-on, is to fetter progress and to put a premium upon inefficiency."

Americans Learn to Shoot.

No more interesting reflection of the attitude of the nation with reference to preparedness may be found than that contained in the reports just made through the National Rifle Association of the tremendous interest developed in rifle shooting throughout the country.

It seems that the introduction of army rifles to the civilian rifle clubs of the country has resulted in the organization of almost 1,000 clubs since the first of January last. The actual increase has been from a little more than 600 to something like 1,600. The aggregate membership of these clubs is reported to be about 95,000.

Through the appropriation of \$300,000 for rifle practice among civilians, the War Department will be able to carry this work further and acquaint many more Americans with the case with which marksmanship can be developed. One hundred years ago this nation was a nation of marksmen. Today there are few men who know how to shoot the modern high power military magazine rifle.

While the campaign for civilian rifle men has been active but about six or eight months, it was really started some six years ago when Capt. W. C. Harless, U. S. Marine Corps, began missionary work to build up a body of marksmen in the Marine Corps. Capt. Harless did so well he was chosen a vice president of the National Rifle Association and placed on the National Board for the Promotion of Rifle Practice. On this board he has been able to carry out his work in the nation at large. The result has been what the National Rifle Association now reports.

It is understood that the director of civilian rifle practice who is to take charge of the spending of the money just appropriated by Congress is to be Capt. Harless. The appointment of this officer is said to be a foregone conclusion, as it is his effort and energy and initiative and enthusiasm that has brought rifle practice among civilians to its present state. It would not do to let this officer sink back into the nonproductive task of a commander of a marine guard on some battleship. He has made the business of rifle shooting attractive to civilians. He should be chosen to continue the work.

The New York strike discussion has resolved itself into a case of "You're another." From his safe vantage ground in Scotland, Mr. Frederick W. Whitridge, president of the Union Railway Company, of New York, says he never agreed to arbitrate differences between the company and its employees. Mr. Oscar S. Strauss, chairman of the public service commission, is his accuser.

And now that Mr. W. D. Howells thinks so, too, we feel emboldened to assert that no ambassador ever sent to this country has displayed greater respect and understanding of the best in America and its people than M. Jusserand. He comes nearer to being the ideal diplomat than any one we have in mind at the present moment.

THE THREE TRAVELERS.

By ORISON SWETT MARDEN.

I often hear people say that they would be glad to help others if they only knew how to go about it or if they only knew somebody who needed their help.

If any one is so sheltered from the knowledge of the suffering of life that he knows of no cases of distress that he can alleviate he needs help himself more than any one else. It is pitiful to hear a person say that he would be glad to help if he only knew somebody who needed it. If we only have the spirit of helpfulness we will find a way, and we will find plenty of people to help.

There is always a "cripple at the Gate Beautiful." There is always not far away from you some poor unfortunate, friendless and alone waiting for some one to put him into the healing pool.

There are plenty of people who need just what we can give them, whether it be money, sympathy, or personal help. On every hand we have unfortunate brothers and sisters who have been crippled and sadly handicapped in their life work, who need perhaps but a little lift to put them on their feet and send them on their way rejoicing.

In one of his beautiful stories Tolstoy shows how every one, no matter what his station, or how poor his circumstances, may do this by following Christ's example in treating every human being as a brother or a sister.

A very devout Russian peasant had prayed for years that the living Master might sometime come to his humble cabin home. One night he had a dream, in which the Master told him He would come to his cabin next day.

Filled with joy, the peasant awoke, and, so real seemed his dream, he immediately went to work to prepare for the expected visitor.

A terrible storm of sleet and snow raged throughout the day. While performing his simple household duties, heaping fresh logs in his crude fireplace, preparing his pot of cabbage soup, the Russian peasant's daily dish, he would look out with anxious, expectant eyes. Presently he saw a half-frozen peddler with a pack on his back struggling toward the light, but almost overcome by the fierce blasts of snow and sleet that beat upon him. The peasant rushed out and brought the wayfarer into his cabin. He dried his clothing, warmed him, and fed him some of the cabbage soup which he had prepared for the Master, and started him again on his journey rejoicing.

In a little while he saw another traveler, a poor old woman trying to fight her way against the storm. Her also the compassionate peasant took into his cabin, warmed and fed her, wrapped his own coat about her, and sent her on her way.

The day wore slowly away and darkness approached, but still no sign of the Master. Hoping against hope, the disappointed man looking out into the storm again saw an unfortunate traveler. It was a little child, vainly trying to make its way against the blinding sleet and snow. He ran out, carried the half-frozen child into his cabin, warmed and fed it, and soon the little wanderer fell asleep before the fire.

Sorely grieved because the Master had not appeared, the peasant sat gazing into the fire while the child slept. Suddenly the room was radiant with a light that did not come from the fire, and there stood the Master, white robed, and looking upon him with a smile. "Ah, Master, I have waited and watched all this long day, but Thou didst not come." The Master replied: "Three times have I visited thy cabin today. The poor peddler whom thou rescued, warmed and fed, that was I—the poor woman to whom thou gavest thy coat, that was I—and this little child whom thou hast rescued from the tempest, that is I. Inasmuch as you have done it unto the least of these, you have done it unto me."

The Christ vision faded. The peasant awoke. He was alone with the child, who was smiling in his sleep. But he knew that his vision had come true, that the Master had visited his cabin.

Execution of Roger Casement.

While we must assume that Great Britain knows her own business better than outsiders, we cannot help feeling that the execution of Roger Casement was a blunder. It will be remembered that Casement spent some time in this city before his hurried departure for Germany after the outbreak of the war. Those who met him at that time were convinced that his mental state over the Sinn Féin movement was least bordered on irresponsibility. It would seem as if only a madman would have undertaken his attack upon Ireland. We take little stock in the excuses made for him by others. To his credit be it said that he has not played the coward since his arrest. He went to his doom like a man. And there are many regrets that he had to meet such a fate.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

Building Program Not All.

Mr. Wilson will not have fulfilled his duty to the American navy by merely securing from Congress the really substantial building program that seems now fairly well assured. Action by Congress is only the first step in providing the country with an adequate navy, the second and perhaps more important being the proper expenditure of the appropriation by the Secretary of the Navy and the adequate administration of the department. What awaits it if Congress does authorize the building of four Dreadnoughts and four battle cruisers, if Mr. Josephus Daniels can interminably delay the construction of these boats as he has done in the case of the Dreadnoughts, authorized by Congress a year ago, of which the keels have not yet been laid.—Boston Advertiser.

Co-operation on the Border.

General Funston's irritation because a squad of Mexican soldiers pursued handbills near Fort Hancock on American soil and later took part with United States troops in the action which resulted in the defeat of the marauders does not appear to be warranted. It is co-operation of this description which has been sought from the beginning, and it has been the absence of such activity by General Carranza's forces in the past which has produced misunderstanding and ill-feeling. Mexican assistance in police work on the border is no reflection upon the United States army. On the contrary, it is agreeable proof of Mexico's belated recognition of its duty to terminate its own cutthroats.—New York World.

The Product Worth While.

The only product worth while for a nation is human welfare. And the children are capable of producing the largest amount of that valuable commodity. A nation which permits its children to be exploited is growing poorer every day in the only commodity it is worth while to produce. No matter how "great" it may be in terms of exports and imports, national wealth, crops and other commodities, if it is producing a deficit of human happiness, it is a world-failure.—Cleveland Press.

AFTER DINNER POLITICS

By DR. E. J. EDWARDS,

Author of "New News of Yesterday," Etc.

The First Presidential "Dark Horse."

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James K. Polk was the only President who permitted his hair to fall in long and graceful tresses, so to speak, so that the back of his neck was concealed. His flowing locks were sometimes described as suggesting the mane of a highly-bred and graceful horse, but it was not for this reason that President Polk was called a "dark horse."

He was the first of the presidential candidates to be nominated without having been, before the meeting of the convention, spoken of as an available candidate for the nomination. His service as Speaker of the House of Representatives had given him some influence worthy of recognition, it was thought, by nominating him as candidate for vice-president. That was an office which Polk's friends said he would gladly have accepted. Looking upon it as a promotion from the speakership of the House.

When the Democratic convention met in 1844, the common presumption was that Martin Van Buren would be for the third time nominated for the presidency. The middle West believed that the time had come when a representative citizen of that section should be named as the Democracy's candidate for president and there was no one who had gained greater favor than General Lewis Cass, of Michigan. There was some romance about his early career in Michigan and he possessed certain dignified, serious, almost solemn qualities strongly suggested by the pose of his head and the expression of his face, which were thought to be especially indicative of higher statesmanship.

New York state never sent a more enthusiastic delegation to a national convention than the men who went to the convention of 1844. Van Buren had a majority in the convention from the start, but, de the best they could, his friends could not by any promises or concessions secure an enough delegates to bring to him a majority of two-thirds. Yet there were some extraordinary shrewd politicians laboring for Van Buren. Benjamin Butler, not Gen. Ben Butler, but another of that name, of the State of Massachusetts, was one of them. He was a man of political craft and was not without a certain shrewdness. Butler suspected that there was an understanding among some of the Southern Democrats to act as to deadlock the convention, and at last the opportune moment came to bring out a candidate. It did come on the eighth ballot when two or three delegates changed their votes from Van Buren to James K. Polk, and after another ballot it was all over.

It was at that time that certain politicians who were familiar with the "racing net" likened the nomination of Polk to the triumph of a horse unknown until the race began to the lovers of running. Afterward there were several "dark horses" in the Presidential race. In 1856 Horatio Seymour, in 1868, General Hancock, in 1880, Rutherford B. Hayes, and in 1876, General Grant, in 1880, and Benjamin Harrison, in 1888.

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The Herald's Army and Navy Department

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to San Francisco, Cal., Letterman General Hospital, for observation and treatment.